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"RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY NEWS"

SEPTEMBER 1981 ISSUE 138

Hamfest Fuss

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS) annual hamfest will be held April 18, 1982 at Crabtree Valley Mall under the back parking deck. This column will appear in each issue of this newsletter to keep the RARS membership informed regarding preparations and help let pepple plan ahead.

The committee structure that has worked so well in the past is again being used. So far the following committee chairmen have agreed to serve: Prizes, Chuck Littlewood; Flea Market, Billy Edwards and Walt Short; Tickets, Frank Weiss; Mailing list, Sherm Starnes; Publicity, Audrey Browne. Several people have been asked and are considering the jobs of Talk In, Hospitality Room and Finance Control. However, I still need someone to step forward and consider the jobs of Sound

System, Club Table, Site Prep and Clean Up. Fortunately, previous hamfest work has well defined just what these jobs entail and I think for most of the year you will find they are not too demanding and are fun. Please step forward and look over the notebook describing the jobs and talk it over with me.

I have sent off requests to the ARRL for certification of the Hamfest and to the FCC in Norfolk asking that exams be offered. I will let you know on what results

I think that we can look forward to another super time next spring and hope that everyone spreads the word to others so that even more people can participate in one of the finest hamfests on the eastern seabord.

73's Ken Boggs,KB4RV

COMPUTER CORNER

In this month's column I am going to discuss two applications of computers to amateur radio; packet repeaters and a RTTY mailbox system.

A packet repeater is similar to any standard amateur repeater because it retransmits a signal to extend the area of coverage. This is where the similarity ends. A packet repeater works with digital information and uses only one frequency instead of a pair of frequencies. The KA6M repeater is the first digital

repeater in the U.S. It consists of a solid-state tranceiver, a Z-80 based microcomputer, and a Bell 202 compatable modem. It transmits data at 1200 baud on 146.580 mHz. simplex and will handle a message 256 bytes long.

The operation of the machine is simple. It receives a message, checks the message for transmission errors, and then retransmits the message. The error checking is done by compairing a bit count with one sent with the message. If the bit counts do not agree the repeater will ask that the message be transmittted again and again until the bit counts agree.

From this brief description it is easy to see the implications of the packet repeater. There would be twice the repeater frequencies available if conventional repeaters were replace by packet repeaters. Its error checking capability would be nice for traffic handling, no fills!!

The RTTY mailbox system is run by K4ZBG on the West coast. Send his call and the computer will reply. Set up a mailbox under your call and other amateurs can leave messages for you. Send a message to the computer and it will retransmit the message. Since this occurs on 20 mtrs., your range can be extended quite a bit. I was told that the heart of the system is a TRS-80 Model III with 48k memory and two disk drives. The interfacing is done with a Macrotronics M8000 and custom software. K4ZBG was not at home when K4UOO and I tried the system, but the computer told us what is available and how to use it.

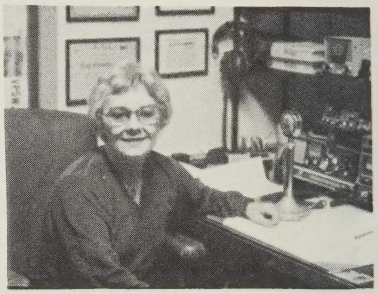
I have briefly described two new uses of computers in amateur radio. I think both will have a benificial impact on our hobby now and in the future.

73's WD4GXO

BERT'S BEAT WITH BERT BAILEY, W4FMN

'ALF A MARATHON, MAYTE? ******
On Saturday 3 October the US Marine Corps Reserve, assisted by the NC Road Runners' Club AND the illustrious RARS bunch will conduct a Half-Marathon or 15 Miler around Raleigh for running enthusuasts both young and old, eager or grim. The grim ones will be tose using this run to tool up for the Big 'Un, 3 or 4 months away. RARS will provide mobiles, walkie-talkies and base station. Ole Jarhead #1 Himself, Bill Radford of WB4CCA fame, will honcho the radio bit with the head dogs of the Head Shed. Bill cheefulyy accepted the post of radio plentipotentiary and will coordinate the ether with such stalwarts as Joe WA4ENZ, Charley, recently of Zebulon, WB4DCM, Pat WA4CLT, and the genial tooth fairy, ole Rollins NF4P. Wally W4PRQ will be on base to catch those hit over the fence, er those collapsing along the way. All in all, looks like the NC-RC will learn the diff between CB and AR this day. They originally wanted CB but ole Bert set 'em straight. Now all we need from RARS is some runners to carry me.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING



ANN BRADLEY, WA4APK

Secretary, RARS

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on August 5, 1981 in the West Community Room at Crabtree Valley Mall. The meeting was called to order by President "Doc" Cobb, W4YZX, and members and guests were welcomed. Guests this evening were John B. Preston, Chris Bowman, Michael Hodgson, Tim Buehlmann, Wade

Stone, all of Raleigh, and Jim Buchanan, KA5HHN, of San Antonio Tx, Son-in-law of Hal Crumley, WA4GBE. The roster was signed by 47 persons.

President Cobb announced that our Newsletter Editor, C.T. West has asked to relinquish his duties. The Board of Directors has decided that the newsletter should be the responsibility of a committee, and Frank Weiss, KY4W has agreed to head this committee. Frank spoke to the members and asked for their help and support. There will be a meeting of the Newsletter Committee on August 27 at the NCSU Faculty Club and all interested persons are asked to attend. Everyone has something to contribute and whatever that is, we need your help.

President Cobb took a poll of the membership for information that will be useful in planning future RARS programs and activities.

13 - Active DXers
7 - Active traffic handlers
7 - Working to Upgrade
28 - Sometimes build own equipment.
26 - Use W4DW Repeater
19 - Used Repeater in the last week.
6 - Used Repeater today.
Half - Thought RARA is doing something they like.
Half - Thought RARS could be doing something we are not doing.

It was a very enlightening survey and Doc plans to ask the same questions at a later date.

Bill Feehan, WB4EOV, gave a financial report. and explained that the last fiscal year was only six months long since we have changed the fiscal year to end June 30. It has been a most successful year. This year we have taken in more than we spent compared with last year when we spent more than we took in. As a result we now have about a thousand dollars more in the bank than we had at this time last year.

Since the Hamfest is RARS greatest source of income, this was a most appropriate moment to introduce the Hanfest Chairman for the coming year, Ken Boggs KB4RV. Rollin, NF4P, has promised to work with Ken and give him whatever help he may need. Ken is off to a great start. He has already lined up some of his Committee Chairmen and is already hard at work. The important day is April 18. Let's hope Ken can count on the help and backing of all the members.

Frank Weiss reported that Novice classes begin Sept 14, and Upgrade classes begin Sept 21 at the McKimmon Center. Price has gone up this session to $7.00.

The program this evening was a slide show of RARS Field Day operation narrated by Rollin Ransom, NF4P. The door prize was won by Jim Peeler, WA4YOM, Jim was given a choice of prizes. The meeting was adjourned following coffee, doughnuts and fellowship.

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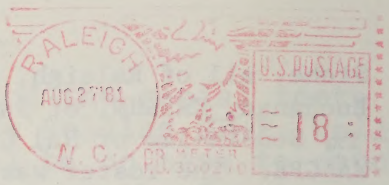
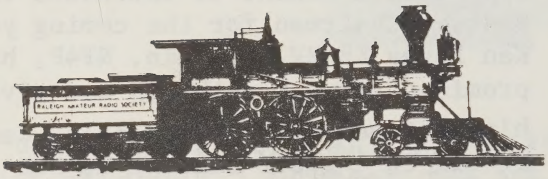


First Class Mail



RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the West Community Room of Crabtree Valley Mall.

September 2
Regular RARS meeting

September 5, 6
Shelby, N.C. Hamfest

September 5, 6
Fourth District QSO party

September 12, 13
ARRL VHF QSO party

September 14
Gaithersburg, Maryland Hamfest

September 16
RARS Advisory Board meeting

September 26, 27
Roanoke Division ARRL Convention, Virginia Beach, Virginia

October 4
Rock Hill, S.C. Hamfest

October 7
Regular RARS meeting